

Medication: ASA	PDN: 6903.05	Last Updated: August 21 2025	PMD: Andrew Travers*	PDC: Teena Robinson*	Page 1 of 2
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Acetylsalicylic Acid / ASA

1.0 Classification

- Analgesic
- Antipyretic
- Platelet aggregation inhibitor
- Anti-inflammatory

2.0 Mechanism of Action

- Inhibits platelet aggregation as well as the agents that produce inflammation, pain, and fever.

3.0 Indications

- Chest pain of a possible ischemic origin
- Acute myocardial infarction
- Unstable angina

4.0 Contraindications

- Gastrointestinal bleeding
- Known hypersensitivity to ASA
- Asthmatics sensitive to ASA

5.0 Precautions

- Allergies to other NSAIDs
- Children or teenagers with varicella or influenza-like symptoms.
- Patients with platelet disorders (e.g., blood dyscrasias)

6.0 Route

- May be given PO

7.0 Dosage

Adult

- 160 mg PO (chewed)

8.0 Supplied

- Package of 2 chewable tablets (80 mg each)

9.0 May Be Given By

- EMR/PCP/ACP/CCP

10.0 Adverse Effects

- Epigastric pain
- Nausea/vomiting
- Gastrointestinal bleeding
- Urticaria

11.0 Special Notes

- If the patient confirms they have self-administered ASA at the direction of the MCC call taker,

additional administration of ASA is not required.

- If a patient has taken their prescribed low dose ASA, administer an additional 160 mg of ASA.
- Giving ASA to children or teenagers with a viral illness can cause Reye's Syndrome.
- Pregnancy category D [potential benefits may warrant use of the drug in pregnant women despite potential risks (e.g., if it is required in a life-threatening situation)].

12.0 References

- Chest Pain Clinical Practice Guideline
- EHS STEMI Reperfusion Worksheet
- Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties (CPS)

*Electronically Signed

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